



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/541,454	07/06/2005	Kohshi Yoshimura	050431	8215
23850	7590	06/10/2009	EXAMINER	
KRATZ, QUINTOS & HANSON, LLP			BASHORE, ALAIN L	
1420 K Street, N.W.			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
Suite 400			1792	
WASHINGTON, DC 20005				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
06/10/2009		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/541,454	Applicant(s) YOSHIMURA ET AL.
	Examiner Alain L. Bashore	Art Unit 1792

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED. (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 February 2009.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 12-16 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 12-16 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/DP/0656) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 12 and 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over [European patents EP-102246 (EP '246) or EP-231599 (EP '599)].

A method for producing an oxidation-resistant rare earth metal-based magnet powder having on its surface an adhesion layer containing a pigment as a component, characterized in that the method comprises mixing a rare earth metal-based magnet powder with a treating solution containing the pigment, and then drying the rare earth metal-based magnet powder having adhered to the surface thereof the treating solution containing the pigment. An organic dispersant medium is also disclosed (see para 0034-0037, 0196-0205, 0212-0213 to EP '246 and para 0036-0042, 0264-0269, 0277-0278 to EP '599).

While the term "primary component" is not utilized in the references, such is considered inherent because of the description given. In an alternative interpretation,

the term would be utilized because it would be obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art for purpose of a particular result required (see para 0073-0075 to EP ' 599) for an amount of pigment need.

Regarding newly added particle diameters, such would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art for the purpose of signal noise reduction in absence of unexpected results.

3. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over European patents EP-102246 (EP '246) or EP-231599 (EP '599).

The previous rejection describes what is disclosed in the references above. The specific weight percentages recited in claim 14 would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art since it is taught that the amount of pigment may affect the resultant coat (see para 0073-0075 to EP '599) in absence of unexpected results.

4. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over European patents EP-102246 (EP '246) or EP-231599 (EP '599) as applied to claims above, and further in view of Kageyama.

European patents EP-102246 (EP '246) or EP-231599 (EP '599) do not disclose obtaining by filtration the powder having adhered to the surface thereof the treating solution containing the pigment.

Kageyama discloses obtaining by filtration a powder having adhered to the surface thereof the treating solution containing the pigment (col 4, lines 38-46).

It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to include filtration because excess solution is unwanted in the art per se.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alain L. Bashore whose telephone number is 571-272-6739. The examiner can normally be reached on about 7:00 am to 4:30 pm (Mon. thru Fri.).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy Meeks can be reached on 571-272-1423. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1792

7. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Alain L. Bashore/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1792